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p. 241.



OENANTHE, Cicutæ facie, succo viroso crocante.

Lob. adv. 326.

G.D. Ehret pinx^t.



CICUTA Aquatica. Wepf. *Sium alterum* Musatri facie

Lob. Icon 208.

G.D. Ehret pinx^t.

J. Mynde Sculp.

Fig. I.

a-----

Fig. II.

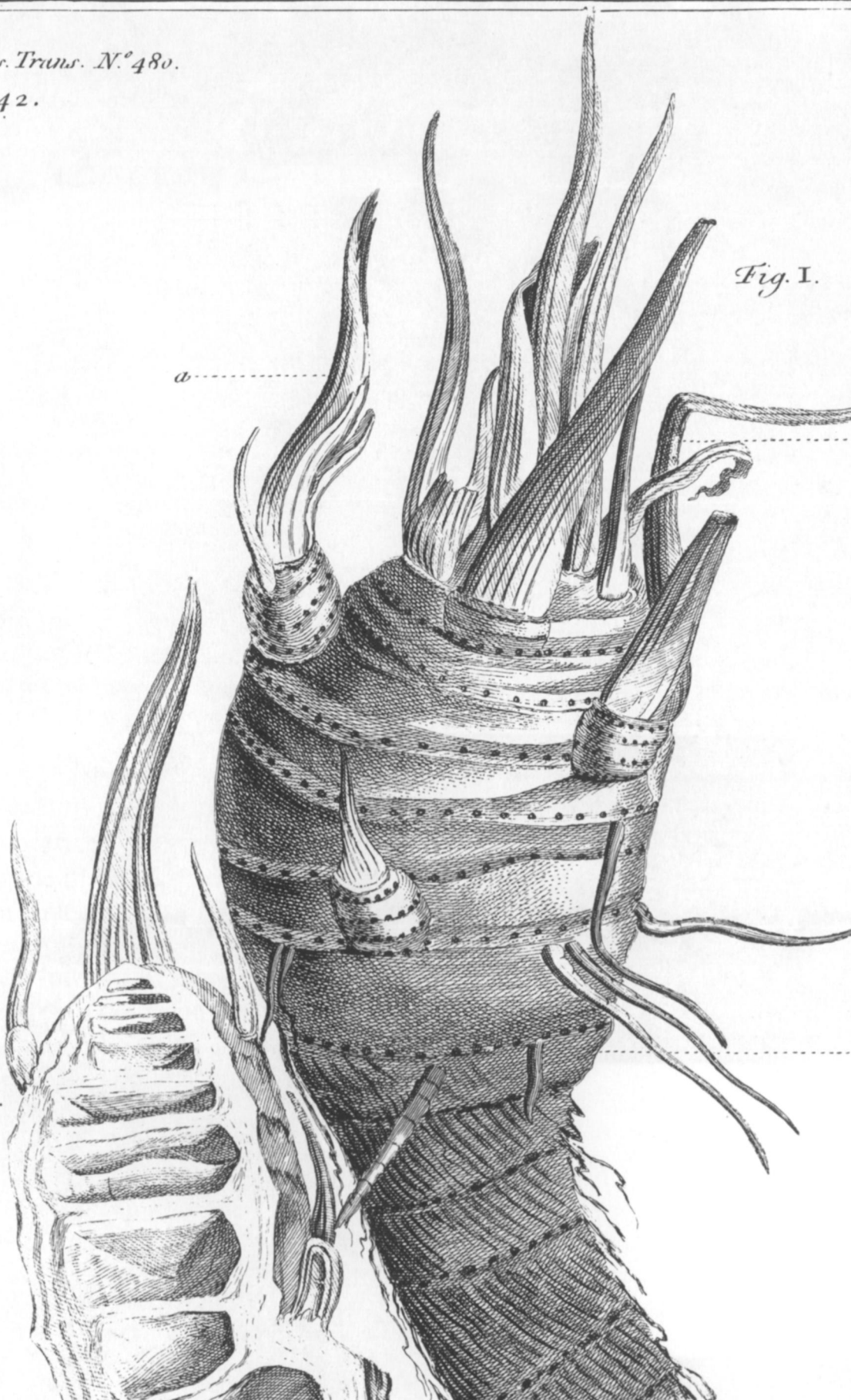
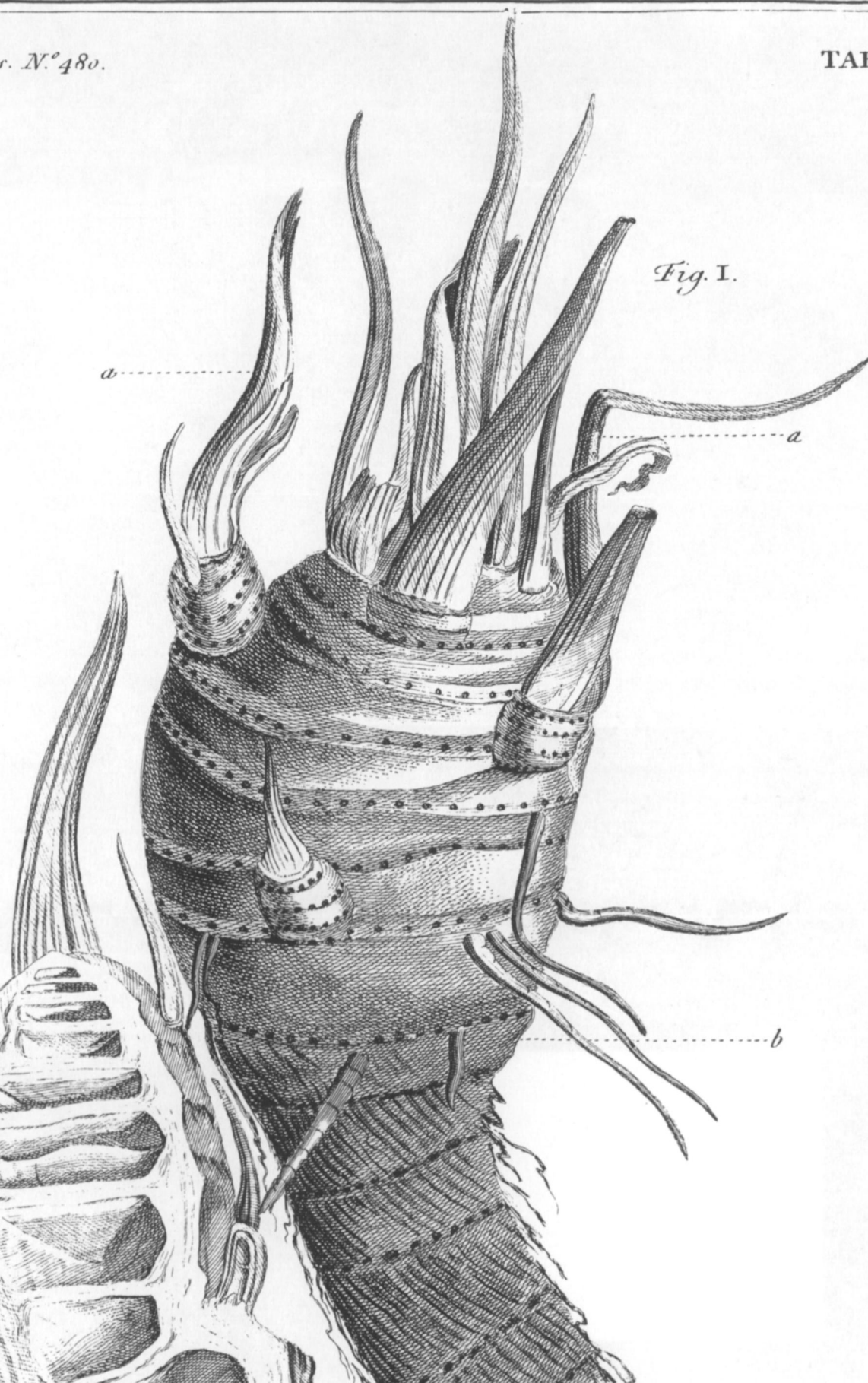
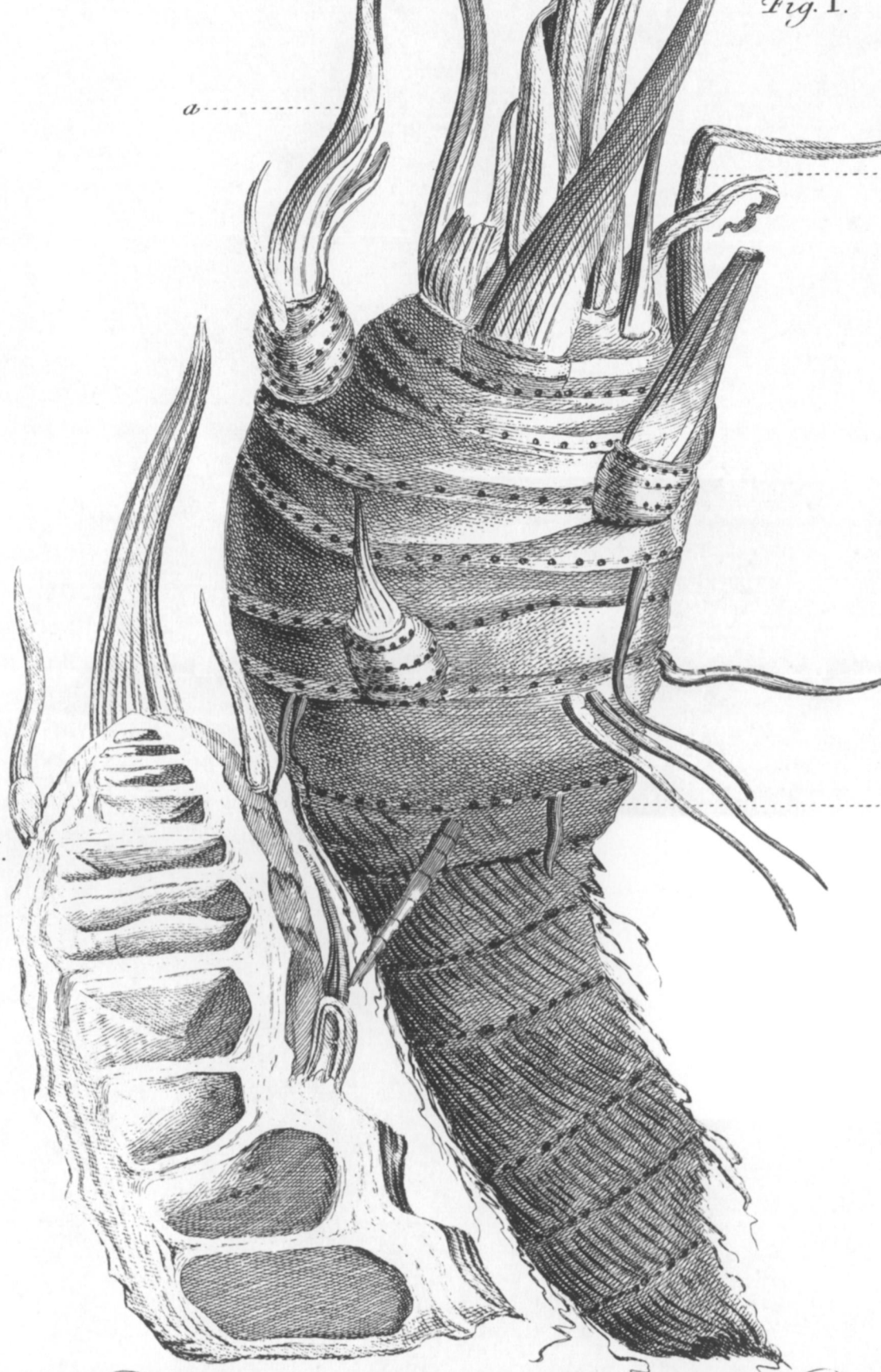


Fig. I.



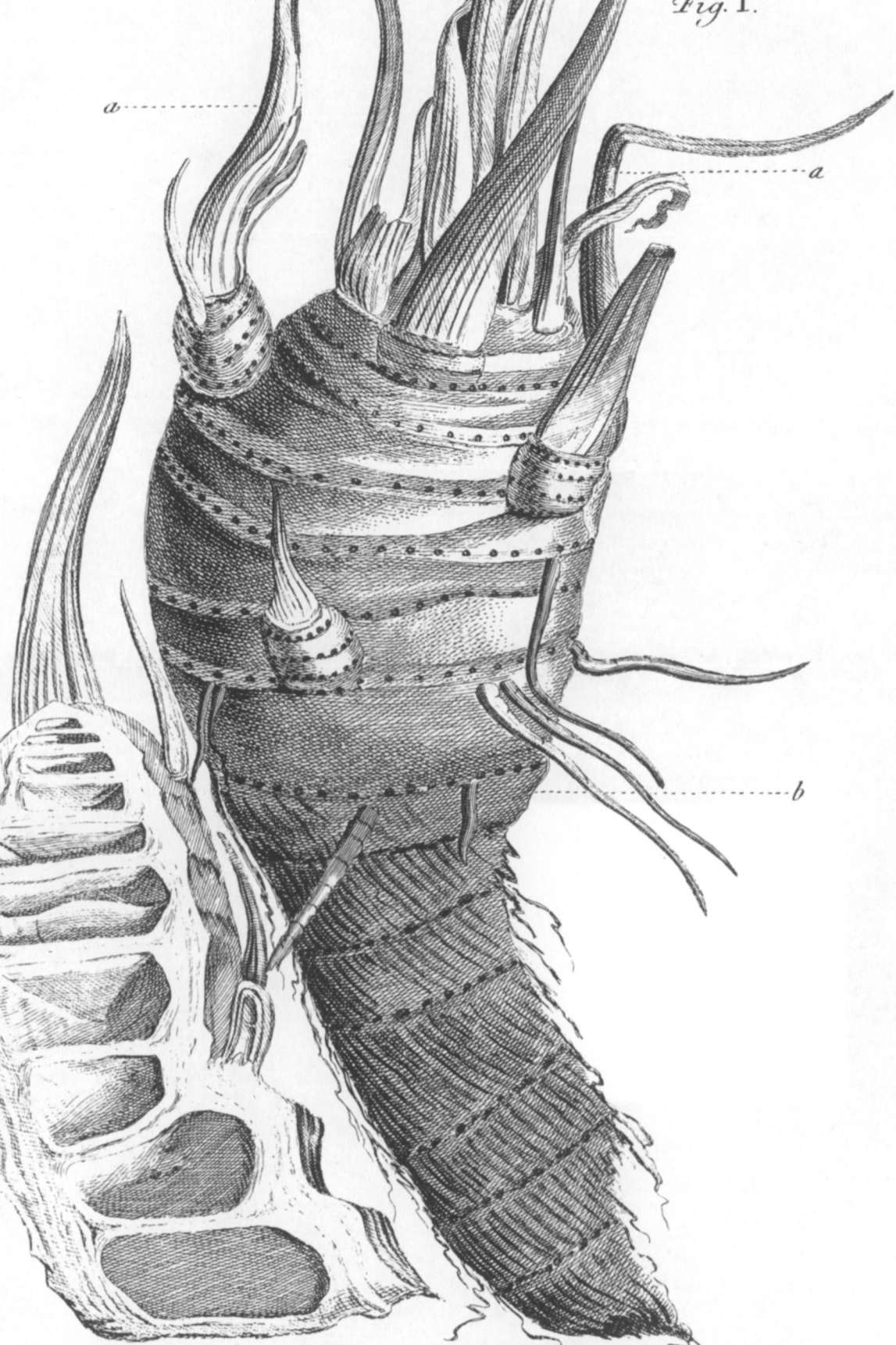
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Fig. II.



The Root of *Cicuta Aquatica* in Winter.

Fig. 1.



The Root of \bar{y} Cicuta Aquatica in Winter.

J. Mynde Sculp

XII. *Critical Observations concerning the Oenanthe aquatica, succo virolo crocante of Lobel; by Mr. W. Watson, Apothecary, F.R.S.; occasion'd by an Extract of a Letter from Mr. George Howell, Surgeon, at Haverford-west, to the Author, giving an Account of the poisonous Effects of this Plant to some French Prisoners at Pembroke.*

Extract of Mr. Howell's Letter.

Read June 12. " 1746.

AS you desire in your Letter, I " have made the best Inquiry I " was capable of, concerning the melancholy Acci- " dent at *Pembroke*.

" Eleven *French* Prisoners had the Liberty of " walking in and about the Town of *Pembroke*: " Three of them, being in the Fields a little before " Noon, found and dug up a large Quantity of a " Plant with its Roots (which they took to be wild " *Celeri*) to eat with their Bread and Butter for " Dinner. After washing it, while yet in the Fields, " they all three eat, or rather tasted, of the Roots.

" As they were entering the Town, without " any previous Notice of Sicknefs at the Stomach " or Disorder in the Head, one of them was seized " with Convulsions. The other two ran home, " and sent a Surgeon to him. The Surgeon endea- " your'd first to bleed, and then vomit him; but " those Endeavours were fruitless, and he died pre- " sently.

" Ignorant

“ Ignorant yet of the Cause of their Comrades
 “ Death, and of their own Danger, they gave of
 “ these Roots to the other eight Prisoners, who all
 “ eat some of them with their Dinner. I cannot
 “ learn exactly how much they eat, they being sent
 “ away a little time before your Letter arrived.

“ A few Minutes after, the remaining two, who
 “ gather’d the Plants, were seized in the same man-
 “ ner as the first; of which one died: The other
 “ was bled, and a Vomit with great Difficulty forced
 “ down, on account of his Jaws being, as it were,
 “ locked together. This operated, and he recover’d;
 “ but was some time much affected with a Dizzi-
 “ ness in his Head, though not sick, or in the least
 “ disorder’d in his Stomach. The other eight, being
 “ bled and vomited immediately, were soon well.

“ There were in these Men none of those coma-
 “ tose Symptoms you mention’d (a) to have happen’d
 “ to the *Dutch* Soldiers, who were poison’d by eat-
 “ ting the *Cicuta major*.

“ As I was not present myself, I send you the best
 “ Information I was able to procure. After I had
 “ done examining, I order’d some of the Herb and
 “ Root to be brought me. As you suggested in your
 “ Letter, I found it to be the *Oenanthe aquatica*
 “ *cicutæ facie* of *Lobel*, which grows in great Plenty
 “ all over this Country, is called by the Inhabit-
 “ ants *five-finger’d Root*, and is much used by them
 “ in Cataplasms for the Fellon, or worst Kind of
 “ Whitflow. The *Frenchmen* eat only the Root,
 “ and

(a) *Philos. Transf.* N°. 473, p. 19.

“ and none of the Leaves or Stalk. — I must beg
 “ your Pardon for sending you this imperfect Account:
 “ Had this Accident happen'd at *Haverford*, you
 “ should have had one more exact.”

So far Mr. *Howell's* Letter.

THE poisonous Effects of this Plant, in the Instance beforemention'd, exactly square with those mention'd of the same Plant, in N^o. 238. of the *Philosophical Transactions*, where eight young Lads, near *Clonmel* in *Ireland* (where this Plant is called *Tahow*) mistook its Roots for those of *Sium aquaticum*, or Water-Parfnep, and eat plentifully of them. About 4 or 5 Hours after, going home, the eldest, almost of Man's Stature, without the least previous Disorder or Complaint, fell down backwards, and died convulsed. Four more died in the same manner before Morning; not one of them having spoken a Word from the Moment the venomous Particles had attacked the *Genus nervosum*. Of the other three, one ran stark-mad, but came to himself next Morning. The Hair and Nails of another fell off. One of them only escaped without any Harm, who ran home above two Miles, and drank warm Milk, which caused a *Diaphoresis*. A *Dutchman* likewise was poison'd with the Leaves of this Plant, boiled in his Pottage; which he took for Smallage, and to which its Leaves have great Resemblance.

Dr. *Allen*, in his *Synopsis Medicinæ*, mentions an Instance of four Children, who eat of these Roots. They indeed were in great Agonies, before they fell into Convulsions. In their Fits they vomited, which was encouraged by large Draughts of Oil and warm
 Water;

Water ; and by other proper Care they all did well. He takes notice likewise of a Pig's dying in Convulsions, from eating some of these Roots, which it had grubbed up.

Stalpart van der Wiel, in his Observations, takes notice of the deadly Effects to two Persons, who had eaten these Roots, mistaking them for *Macedonian* Parsley. These Men (like those quoted from *Dr. Allen*), soon after eating these Roots, were troubled with violent Heats in the Throat and Stomach, attended with a *Vertigo*, Sicknesh at the Stomach, and Purging. One of them bled at the Nose ; the other was violently convulsed. Both of them died ; one in two Hours, the other in three. This Author has given us three Figures of the *Oenanthe* : The two Tables of the Roots and the Leaves are tolerably well executed ; but that expressing the whole Plant is very deficient. It were much to be wished, that all botanical Authors had Industry and Ingenuity enough to delineate their own Tables, as *Columna* and *Dillenius* have done ; which will always heighten the Value of their otherwise excellent Works.

It is very remarkable, that neither the *French* Prisoners, who were killed at *Pembroke*, nor those before cited in the *Philosophical Transactions*, felt any Heat or Disorder in their Stomach, before the Attack of the convulsive Paroxysms : Whereas those mention'd by *Dr. Allen*, and *Stalpart van der Wiel*, were in great Agonies, from the violent Heat in their Stomach and Throat, before they were attacked by Convulsions.

The same Variety of Symptoms we meet with in *Wepfer*, with regard to those People who were poison'd

son'd by the *Cicuta aquatica*; where some of them, who had eaten the Roots of this Plant at the same time, stood and assisted their Friends, till they died of Convulsions, without feeling themselves any wise disorder'd; and afterwards, in their turns, died in the same Manner. Others were violently affected by it, as soon almost as they had eaten it. Confer *Wepfer's History* with the (a) *German Ephemerides*. *Linnaeus* mentions, in the (b) *Flora Laponica*, the great Slaughter, and miserable Manner, in which the horned Cattle died, from eating this Plant at *Tornæa*. This Author also, in his *Flora Suecica*, acquaints us (notwithstanding *Rivinus* and *Mappus* have asserted, that the horned Cattle not only eat this Plant without Detriment, but are very fond of it) that three Oxen were killed by eating the Roots thereof. He was fully convinced that they were the Roots of the *Cicuta aquatica*; because, soon after this Accident, the Country People brought him some of them, desiring to know to what Plant they belonged. He thereupon planted them in the academical Garden, and was fully satisfied what they were.

Wepfer has confounded his *Cicuta aquatica*, in the History thereof §, with the poisonous *Oenanthe* of *Lobel*; where he says, that *Lobel* has described the *Cicuta aquatica* under the Name of *Oenanthe Cicuta facie, succo viroso crocante*; and mentions, that it is not very frequent, but in the Northern Parts of *England* by the Sides of Rivers, and in watry Places: He adds,

* *Ephemerid. Natur. Curiosor. Dec. 2. Ann. 6. Obs. 116.*

† See *Flor. Lappm.* p. 72. § *Cicutæ aquat. historia et noxæ*, p. 15.

adds, that *Lobel* has not been exact in his Description. To which I answer, that *Lobel's* Description of the *Oenanthe* is very exact, for the Time he liv'd; and it is very evident, that *Wepfer* never saw this *Oenanthe*; which Plant, I believe, is not found in *Germany*. *Wepfer* likewise, in the *Ephemerides Naturæ Curiosorum* *, is under the same Mistake; and tells you, that *Stalpart van der Wiel* differs from him; and calls the Plant, mention'd in his Observations, *Oenanthe*, as *Lobel* does: And tho' *Stalpart* has given Figures of the Plant accurate enough for a common Observer to distinguish the Plants by, and tho' nine Years lapsed between the Publication of his Book de *Cicuta* and his Observations in the *Ephemerides*, he was still in the same Error; and believed the *Oenanthe* of *Lobel*, and his *Cicuta aquatica*, as well as that of *Gesner*, to be the same poisonous Plant. The accurate *Hoffman* † also, when treating
of

* *Ephemerid. Nat. curios. Dec. II. Ann. VI. Obs. 116.*

† *Fred. Hoffman. Medicin. rational. systematic. Tom. II. p. 174. Edit. in 4to.* “*Ex vegetabilium regno inter præsentissima venena referri debeat cicuta vera, napellus sive aconitum caruleum, solanum furiosum, hyoscyamus, ac datura.*” If here the Epithet *vera* to *Cicuta* is understood only to point out the poisonous Sort of Hemlock, there are no less than three Species of this Class, which, from their being known certainly to be poisonous, may lay Claim thereto; viz. *Cicuta major* of *Caspar Bauhin*, *Cicuta aquatica* of *Wepfer*, and *Oenanthe cicutæ facie* of *Lobel*. But, it is very probable, the two last were unknown to the Ancients. The Description of *Dioscorides*, lib. iv. cap. 79, which is the only one to be met with among the Greek Writers, and that but obscure, relates, in my Opinion to the first of these. Κάτειον καυλὸν ἀνίσσι γονατώδῃ ὡς μάραθρον μέγαν. Φύλλα δὲ νάβηκτι ἐμπερῆ, σενώτερα δὲ καὶ βαρυόσµα. ἐπ' ἀκρῶν δὲ ἀπορροίς, καὶ σκιαδία, ἀνδρὸς ὑπὸ λάρκων σπέρµα ἐμπερὲς ἀρίστον, λωκώτερον ῥίζα κοίλη καὶ ἐ βαθεῖα. *Pliny's* Description, lib. xxv. cap. ult. is taken from this of *Dioscorides*.

of vegetable Poisons, makes no Mention of this Difference.

Neither the Roots of the *Oenanthe* of *Lobel*, nor those of the *Cicuta* of *Wepfer*, have any Flavour in them disagreeable enough to deter those, who taste them, from eating. They both occasion violent Convulsions, and Death, if not timely prevented. The Intention of Cure seems in both to be the same; *viz.* first, by emptying the Stomach and Intestines as soon as possible, and then by causing the Patient to swallow large Quantities of oleaginous Fluids. But it is to be observed, that the causing the Patient to swallow any Quantity is attended with great Difficulty, after he is attacked by the Poison; because of the Jaws being, as it were, locked together by the Violence of the Spasm. After the Stomach is freed from this pernicious Vegetable, the Symptoms have generally diminished by Degrees, and the Patient recovered.

Threlkeld, in his *Synopsis Plantarum*, mentions, that he has seen great Plenty of this *Oenanthe* in *Cumberland*, where the Country-People call it *Dead Tongue*, and use it, when boiled like a Pultice, to the galled Backs of their Horses.

Neither the *German* Botanists*, nor *Haller* in his *Enumeratio Stirpium Helvetiæ*, mention this Plant as growing amongst them. I believe, therefore, it is seldom met with but in *Holland*, *England*, and in some Parts of *France*; for *Morrison* mentions it growing

* Unless the *Olsenichium* of *Valerius Cordus*, and *Thysselium* of *Dodonæus*, hereafter mention'd, are other Names of the Plant in Question.

ing in *Bretagne* near the Mouth of the River *Loire*. This Plant was communicated to *Matthiolum* by a Professor of Physic at *Padua* (See *Matth. p. 628.*). *Linnaeus*, in the *Flora Suecica*, says, that he received it from a Correspondent, who gather'd it in *Scania*.

Lobel, and after him *John Bauhin* and others, take notice of this Plant's growing in the Northern Parts of *England*. It grows also in the Western and Southern Parts, by the Sides of Rivers, large Waters, and sometimes by Ponds. It grows near *Bath*. Dr. *Allen* mentions it growing within three Miles of *Bridgewater*. Its being produced in *Wales*, is the Occasion of this Paper. I have seen it very frequently by the Sides of the River *Thames*, both above and below *London*. I have found it likewise by the Side of a large Pond near the Road, in the Town of *Dulwich*, not far North of the College; likewise by the Sides of a large Water near the Mills, half a Mile South-east of *Dartford* in *Kent*.

Lobel is the first, who has given a small Figure and a tolerable Description of this *Oenanthe*, in his *Adversaria Plantarum* (1). He has likewise represented it in the 730th of his *Icones*. This seems likewise to be the Plant described by *Valerius Cordus* (2), under the Denomination of *Olsenichium*; and, by *Dodonæus*, under that of *Apium sylvestre*, sive *Thyselium* (3); where the Description, Place of Growth, and Form of the Roots, agree exactly with the Plant
under

(1) *Adversaria Plant. nov.* 326.

(2) *Valer. Cord. p.* 149.

(3) *Dodon. Pempt.* 687.

under Consideration; tho' his Figure is execrably bad. This bad Figure is copied, and the Description translated, by *Gerard* (4) in his Herbal, without making any mention of *Dodonæus*. This Figure is likewise copied in *Parkinson's Theatre of Plants*. *John Bauhin*, *Matthiolum*, *Gerard*, *Parkinson*, and *Morrison*, have given us Figures of this *Oenanthe*; but these Representations give us scarcely any other Idea of the Plant, than that it is an umbelliferous one, with Roots divided like those of *Asphodel*. Of these, however, *Morrison's* (5) is the best; and his Description, in his Book *de Umbelliferis*, is very exact and copious. Mr. *Ray's* Description is taken from *Lobel*. I have at the Bottom of the § Page recited the various *Synonyma*, under which this Plant is mentioned amongst Authors.

As it appears, from what I have laid down, that the *Oenanthe* of *Lobel*, and *Cicuta aquatica* of *Wepfer*, have not been sufficiently distinguished by medical Writers hitherto, I hope I shall stand excused for making

(4) *Gerard*. Emac. 1020.

(5) *Morrison* Umbel.

§ OENANTHES, de qua hic agitur, *Synonyma*.

Oenanthe tertia Matthioli. p. 629.

Oenanthe, succo viroso, *Cicutæ facie Lobelii*. *J. B.* III. p. 193.

Oenanthe, *Chærophylli foliis*. *C. B. P.* 162.

Filipendula, *Cicutæ facie*. *Ger. Emac.* 1057.

Oenanthe, *Cicutæ facie Lobelii*. *Park.* 894.

Oenanthe maxima, succo viroso, *Cicutæ facie*. *Morrif. Hist. Sect.* 9. Tab. 9.

Oenanthe, foliis omnibus multifidis obtusis, fere æqualibus. *Hort. Cliff.* 99. *Royen.* 107.

making a few Observations upon this last. This, though a Plant frequently met with upon the Continent, and very well described by botanical Writers, we seldom find near *London*; but it grows in many Parts of *England* by the Sides of large standing Pools, and near the Banks of Fens. I am informed by *Robert More*, Esq; an excellent Botanist, and a very worthy Member of this Society, that it grows plentifully in many Parts of *Shropshire*. I have lately received it from Dr. *Wilmer*, who gather'd it by the Sides of the River *Colne*, not far from *Uxbridge*. It is mentioned by Mr. *Ray* to grow near *Brereton Mere* in *Cheshire*, and in several other Places. You find it mention'd by *Gesner* (1); and *Wepfer*, in his History thereof, has given us four Tables of different Parts sufficiently accurate. It is figured and described by *John Bauhin* (2). *Lobel's Icon.* 208, relates to this Plant. *Dodonæus's* Figure, which is not a bad one for the Time, is copied both by *Gerard* and *Parkinson*. *Morrison* has given us two Figures thereof, one in his general History, the other in his Book *de Umbelliferis*, though under different Names. But the most elegant and descriptive Figures are those of the *Hortus Eystettensis* and *Rivinus*. As the Synonyma of this Plant are very many, and very different, I have inserted them at the Bottom of the next Page§.

Tho'

(1) *Gesner Hort.* 254.

(2) *J. Bauhin. III. p. 175.*

Tho' the medical Writers have not sufficiently distinguished these Plants, the Botanists have. These indeed, in their turns, have been as negligent, when writing concerning their Uses *. So that, notwithstanding *Lobel* long ago (1) informed the World, that the *Oenanthe Cicutæ facie*, in its Effects, was very like Hemlock; and that those, who had eaten it in Sallads, were almost killed by it; this Plant occasioning *Vertigo's*, and other violent Symptoms; yet *Morrison*, in his Treatise of umbelliferous Plants, tho' very exact in the Description of the Species of which we are now treating, recommends indiscriminately the whole *Genus*, as being temperately warm and dry; that they are useful in cleansing the urinary Passages,

* *Matthiolum*, speaking of the *Oenanthe*, says, p. 628. *Putamus tamen a cæteris filipendulis non multum differre.*

(1) *Lobel's Adversaria* were published in the Year 1572.

§ CICUTÆ aquaticæ Synonyma.

Cicuta aquatica. *Gesner. Hort.* 254. *Wepfer. Linnæi Flor. Lap.* 103.

Cicuta maxima quorundam. *Hort. Eystet.*

Cicuta. Linnæi Hort. Cliff. 100.

Cicutaria. Rivin. Tab. 76.

Sium alterum. Dodon. Pempt. 579.

Sium alterum Olusatris facie. Lobel. Ic. 208. *Ger. Em.* 256. *Raii Hist.* 450.

Sium Erucæ folio. C. B. P. 154.

Sium majus angustifolium. Parkinsf. 1241.

Sium foliis rugosis trifidis, seu multifidis dentatis. Morrisf. Umbell. 63. *Tab.* 5.

Sium, pinnis laciniatis, pinnulis trifidis, nervo non folioso. Holler. Helv. 436.

Passages, and in opening Obstructions: He quotes the Authority of *Dioscorides* for giving the powder'd Roots in Wine to cure the Dysury, and to help asthmatic Complaints. What the *Oenanthe* of *Dioscorides* was (2), nobody has determined. He describes it, as having Leaves like Parsneps, white Flowers, a thick Stalk about a Span high, Seeds like those of Arrach, a large Root divided into several round Heads, and that it grows in rocky Places. A short Account of the *Oenanthe*, together with its Uses in Medicine, is taken from *Dioscorides* by *Pliny* (3) the Naturalist. What the Plant was that *Dioscorides* here recommends, is uncertain: None of the Species we are acquainted with come near this Description; all those, that we know, much exceed his Measure; none of them have Leaves like Parsneps, and all grow in watry Places. *Ruellius* (4), *Fuchsius* (5), *Tragus* (6), *Dodonæus* (7), and *Matthiolum* (8), have given us the *Filipendula* or *Dropwort*, for the *Oenanthe* of *Dioscorides*: But this cannot be that Plant, because its Seeds are not like those of *Arrach*; neither has it a large Root divided into many Heads. *Parkinson* (9), no great Favourer of *Lobel*, says, that “*Lobel* only brandeth his *Oenanthe Cicutæ facie* to
“ be virulent and venomous, from the Relations of
“ the

(2) Ὀινάνθη τὰ μὲν φύλλα ἔχει ὥσπερ σαρυλίνος, ἀνθὴ δὲ λευκὰ. καὶ καυλὸν παχὺν σπιθαμιαῖον· καρπὸν δὲ ὥσπερ ἀτραφάλις· ῥίζαν μεγάλην κεφαλᾷς ἔχουσαν πλείονας στρογγύλας· φύεαι ἐν πέτραις. *Dioscorid. lib. iii. cap. 135.* (3) *Plinii Nat. Hist. lib. xxi. cap. 24.*

(4) *Pag. 265.*

(5) *Fuchsi Hist. 563.*

(6) *Trag. p. 883.*

(7) *Dodon. Pempt. 56.*

(8) *Pag. 627.*

(9) *Park. Theat.*

“ the North Country People, where he says it chiefly “ grows.” Mr. *Ray*, in his History, though he has transcribed *Lobel's* Description, in which its venomous Qualities are taken notice of, leaves this Matter to further Examination, other Botanists being of a different Opinion.

The Instances mention'd in these Papers are but too sufficient Testimonies of the malignant Properties of this Plant; but Mr. *Miller*, a worthy Member of this *Society*, informed me further, that, not many Years since, a whole Family were poisoned therewith at *Battersea*. As this Plant is frequent so near us, and as its Appearance and Smell are so like *Smallage* and *Celeri*, we are greatly interested that the Knowledge of it be extended as much as possible. As I find no good Representation thereof among Authors, and as a good Figure conveys a stronger Idea to the Generality of Readers than the most accurate Description, I have procured that admirable Artist Mr. *Ehret* to draw not only this Plant, but also the *Cicuta aquatica* of *Wepfer*; that they may be the more easily known from all Plants, and distinguished from each other by their being both seen at one View. From these Drawings the ingenious Mr. *Mynde* has very accurately engraved the Figures in TAB. III. IV. and V. hereunto annexed.

P. S. I am informed by Mr. *Ehret*, that, in drawing the *Oenanthe*, which he has executed with his usual Elegance and Accuracy, he was obliged to have a Quantity of it placed before him upon a Table; when, the Room being small, the *Effluvia* thereof caused in him an universal Uneasiness, with a

H h

Vertigo;

Vertigo, so that he was constrained to have it removed, and never after place before him but a small Piece at a time.

There is something in the Formation of the Root of the *Cicuta aquatica* before-mention'd, deserving particular Notice. This Plant generally grows either near the Sides of large stagnant Waters, or in shallow Rivers, whose Streams are slow. Towards the End of Autumn, or the Beginning of Winter, the Root for the succeeding Summer is formed out of the lower Part of the Stalk. Out of the Crown of this Root are then seen the Rudiments of the Leaves of next Year (*see* TAB. V. *Fig. 1. a.*); and from the Sides of this grow the Crowns of several smaller Roots. This Root, in its whole Length, is divided transversely into a Number of large unequal Cells (*see* TAB. V. *Fig. 2.*). Corresponding with the Partitions, which divide these Cells, the Surface of the Root is marked circularly with little round Depressions. So great a Part of this Root is occupied by the Cells, that it becomes specifically lighter than Water; so that, in Winter, upon the Increase of Water in the Rivers and Pools, this Root, as well that Part intended for the succeeding Summer, as that which furnished the Plant the preceding, is buoyed up. The old Root then rots, and floats upon the Surface of the Water with the new one all the Winter (*see* TAB. V. *Fig. 1, b.*); and in Rivers these are frequently carried to very great Distances from the Places of their Growth. In the Spring the old Root is washed away; and the new one, upon its coming near the Soil, sends out from the Circles
before-

before-mention'd, particularly from those nearest the Bottom, a great Number of long slender white Fibres, by which this Root becomes again fixed to the Soil, propagates its Species, and remains thus, until, by the rotting of these Fibres, it is again weighed up. The old Root decaying, and being washed from the new, is the Cause of that truncated Appearance we observe in the Root of the Figures of *Dodonaus*, *Parkinson*, and *Morrison*, who have exhibited this Plant in a flowering State. This Provision of Cells in the Root seems to be given to this Plant by Nature, that, as great Part of its Root is apt to perish in Winter, Vegetation might not be prevented, nor the Root destroyed, unless the whole Number of Cells are spoiled, which very rarely happens.

Explanation of TABLE III. exhibiting the Oenanthe Cicutæ facie.

- a*, Its tuberosè Roots surrounding the Stalk.
- b, b, b, b*, A Leaf taken from near the Bottom of the Stalk.
- c*, A Branch with the Umbels of Flowers in different States.
- d*, An anterior View of the Flower of its natural Size.
- e*, A posterior View of the same.
- f*, The anterior Appearance of the Flower through a Microscope.
- g*, The posterior View of the same.
- h*, A View of the Rudiments of the Fruit after the Decay of the Flower.
- i*, The same magnified.

Explanation of TABLE IV. representing the Cicuta aquatica of Wepfer.

- a*, A Branch of this Plant with its Umbels of Flowers in different States.
- b*, The Appearance of the Bottom of the Stem, growing from the Crown of the old Root.
- c*, An anterior View of the Flower of its natural Size.
- d*, An anterior View of the same magnified.
- e*, A posterior View of the Flower magnified.
- f*, The *Vasculum seminale*, and Seed.
- g*, The same magnified.

Explanation of TABLE V. representing the Root of the Cicuta aquatica in Winter.

Fig. I.

- a*, The Rudiments of the Leaves.
- b*, The old rotten Root not yet separated from the new one of the preceding Summer.

Fig. II.

A longitudinal Section of the Root exhibiting the Cells.

XIII. *A Letter to Mr. Benj. Robins, F. R. S. shewing that the Electricity of Glass disturbs the Mariners Compass, and also nice Balances.*

Dear Sir,

June 10. 1746.

Read June 12. 1746. **W**HILE so many Gentlemen are labouring to find out the Uses of Electricity, it has been my Fortune to discover one, at least, of the Inconveniencies attending that Property